

The claims:

1. A method of improving accuracy in searching digital ink, the method comprising:
receiving a search input query;
5 determining a specialized format of digital ink;
selecting a digital ink searching algorithm based on the determined specialized
format of digital ink; and,
searching the digital ink for a match to the search input query by utilising the
selected digital ink searching algorithm.
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2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the specialized format of digital ink is
determined automatically, based on the digital ink to be searched.
3. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the specialized format of digital ink is
15 determined automatically, based on the search input query.
4. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the specialized format of digital ink is
determined automatically, based on information contained in a document associated with
the digital ink to be searched.
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5. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the specialized format of digital ink is
determined manually, by a user selecting the specialized format of digital ink.
6. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the specialized format of digital ink is
25 determined manually, by a parameter associated with the system processing the digital ink.
7. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the specialized format of digital ink is
determined automatically, based on a font contained in the document associated with the
digital ink to be searched.
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8. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the specialized format of digital ink is
determined based on a document label or document setting associated with the digital ink.

9. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the specialized format of digital ink is determined based on a document field label associated with the digital ink.
- 5 10. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the specialized format of digital ink is determined based on a document field attribute associated with the digital ink.
11. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the specialized format of digital ink is determined based on an analysis of the characteristics of the digital ink to be searched.
- 10 12. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the specialized format of digital ink is determined based on a written language or script of the digital ink to be searched.
13. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the specialized format of digital ink is determined based on a written character set of the digital ink to be searched.
- 15 14. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the specialized format of digital ink is determined based on differentiating written text from drawings in the digital ink to be searched.
- 20 15. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the search input query is of a type from the group of: textual; numerical; alphanumeric; pictorial; or graphical.
16. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein an indicating label of the specialized format of digital ink is stored with the digital ink.
- 25 17. A system for improving accuracy in searching digital ink, the system comprising:
- (1) an input device to receive a search input query;
 - (2) a storage device to store the searchable digital ink;
 - 30 (3) at least one processor in communication with the storage device, the at least one processor adapted to:
- (A) determine a specialized format of digital ink;

(B) select a digital ink searching algorithm based on the determined specialized format of digital ink; and,

(C) search the digital ink for matches to the search input query by utilising the selected digital ink searching algorithm; and,

5 (4) an output device to display one or more search results.

18. The system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the input device is a pen-based input device.

10 19. The system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the input device is a keyboard or keypad.

20. The system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the output device is a printer or a visual display.

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21. The system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the digital ink is associated with one or more of a document label, a document setting, a document field label or a document field attribute, and the specialized format of digital ink is determined from one or more of the document label, the document setting, the document field label or the document field attribute.

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22. The system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the at least one processor determines the specialized format of digital ink based on user input to the input device.

25 23. The system as claimed in claim 17, the at least one processor adapted to perform the method of any one of the claims 1 to 16.